Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2006. The objective of this scheme is to guide and facilitate implementation of NUTP right form the initial planning stage. Some proposals have been received from States/ULBs only recently under the new scheme. However, no proposal has been approved yet.

National urban poor fund

*143. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up a National Urban Poor Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose behind it;

(c) whether the master plans had neglected the needs of the informal sector, which engages 92 per cent of the total workforce in cities and towns, especially in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Guidelines of the sub-mission of Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched on 3rd December 2005, envisage the establishment of Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund at the State level. The Guidelines envisage that wherever state Level Nodal Agency releases Central and State funds to the implementing agencies as soft loan or grant-cum-loan, it would ensure that at least 10 per cent of the funds released are recovered and ploughed into a revolving fund. This fund would be utilized to meet operation and maintenance expenses of the assets created under the sub-mission. At the end of the Mission period, the Revolving, Fund may be graduated to State Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund.

Mandatory reforms given in the guidelines for Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) also provide for the internal earmarking within Urban Local Body (ULB) budgets for basic services to the urban poor. The Government of India has addressed State Governments for earmarking at least 25 per cent of municipal budget for the purpose, eventually leading to the creation of a Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund at the ULB level.

In the background of the funds to be established at the State and ULB levels for provision of basic services to the urban poor, a Basic Services to the Urban Poor fund is contemplated at the national level, seeking support of multilateral and bilateral agencies. The objective of this fund is to provide financial support for basic minimum amenities like water supply and sanitation for the urban poor/slum-dwellers in a time-bound manner.

(c) to (e) The Master plans of cities and towns across the country, in general, have not kept pace with the growth in the informal urban economy and of urban poor needs. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission (JNNURM), provides for the earmarking at least

20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both by public and private agencies) for Economically weaker Sections (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG) category with a system of cross subsidization as part of the Reform agenda to be carried out at the State level.

The Prime Minister and Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation have addressed Chief Ministers of States to take steps to provide basic entitlements and amenities to the urban poor, including land tenure and affordable housing, in a time-bound manner.

Dialogue with Foreign Minister of Pakistan

*144. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met in May, 2008 to continue the unfinished dialogue;

(b) if so, whether there was also a meeting on Indo-Pak anti-terror mechanism in the month of October, 2008;

(c) if so, the main subjects discussed thereat;

(d) whether any agreement in regard to meeting the threat of terror has been reached;

(e) if so, to what extent both countries have implemented the proposals; and

(f) to what extent anti-terror mechanism of India and Pakistan has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism had discussed the bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul and other issues of concern. No response has been received from Pakistan on the details on the attack on the Embassy provided to it. Government awaits Pakistan's response.

(f) The joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism unfortunately has not delivered desired results on its mandate.

Gap in consumption-expenditure

†*145. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference in the consumption expenditure of the people living in the rural and urban areas of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.